

4th & Stewart church of Christ

"...upon this rock I will build my church;
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
~ Matthew 16:18



March 24, 2019

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

www.4thstreetcoc.org
office@4thstreetcoc.org

Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study9:45 AM
Worship10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service 2:30 PM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Don Smith

John Barnum

Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
House to House, Heart to Heart
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
The Truth in Love
World Bible School

Non-Negotiable: The Divinity of Jesus

The belief that Jesus Christ is a divine being is a foundational doctrine in Christianity. It is a non-negotiable tenet of the faith. Even so, the idea of Christ's divinity is rejected, belittled, and explained away by many.

According to the Quran, the one who believes that Christ is God "has certainly gone far astray." For many modern skeptics, if Jesus existed, He might have been a good teacher but was in no way divine. There are even groups that claim to be following the God of the Bible while claiming that Christ's divinity is not taught in the Scriptures. For example, the Watchtower Society (Jehovah's Witness) claims that Jesus is not God but "God's first creation," and the Mormon church teaches that Jesus is the created "spirit brother" of Satan.

With all of the different opinions on who Jesus is, it might be tempting to shy away from such a controversial subject. However, Jesus does not afford us that option. As Jesus explained to a crowd of Jewish contemporaries, "*I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am He you will die in your sins*" (John 8:24). For Jesus, our belief regarding His identity is a matter of life and death. To determine Jesus's identity, we will examine His claims and actions, along with what the New Testament writers taught about Him.

Jesus as God in the Gospels

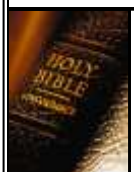
Before we determine who somebody is, we ought to investigate what they said about themselves. While this discussion could (and possibly should) begin with arguments for the existence of God and the inspiration of the Bible, I am going to assume these things as we discuss what the New Testament has to say about Jesus and what Jesus has to say about Himself. If God exists and the Bible is His inspired word, and if the Bible teaches that Jesus is God, then we can know that Jesus is indeed God.

We find Jesus's most explicit claims to deity in the Gospel of John. John's Gospel masterfully traces the rising tension between Jesus and the Jewish leaders of His day. This tension is mostly due to the fact that they understood Jesus' claims to be blasphemous because Jesus was continually "*making Himself equal with God*" (John 5:18). By calling God His own Father (John 5:17), Jesus was claiming a unique connection to and equality with God.

Later in the narrative, while discussing how the Jewish leaders would not be trying to kill Him if they were Abraham's children, Jesus made this claim: "*Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am*" (John 8:58). This quote

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And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. ... Then He said to them, "*These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.*" (Luke 24:27, 44).



Let us know if you want to study
the Bible to know more about
Christ and His Church.

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is noteworthy because Jesus is saying more than “I am older than Abraham.” Jesus could have said, “before Abraham was, I was” or, “before Abraham existed, I existed.” Instead, Jesus employed the present tense of the verb meaning “to be.”

Jesus was claiming a “kind of transcendence over time that could only be true of God.” With this statement, Jesus did not only claim to transcend time, but identified Himself with the same God who spoke to Moses in Exodus 3:14. The Jews understood that Jesus was claiming to be the eternal God of their fathers. Thus, they picked up stones to execute Him (John 8:59).

Likewise, Jesus echoed the sacred Shema (Deut. 6:4), the common prayer of the Jews, when He claimed, “*I and the Father are one*” (John 10:30). Here we are given some insight regarding the biblical doctrine of the Trinity. “*I and the Father*” (two persons) “*are one*” (one in essence). His Jewish audience understood His claim for what it was and again sought to stone Jesus (John 10:31). It is worth noting that Jesus echoed two of the central Scriptures regarding the identity of God in the Old Testament (Ex. 3:14; Deut. 6:4) as He applied them to Himself. Jesus claimed to be God.

Jesus Acted Like God

Jesus also implied His deity by His actions or more indirect claims. There are several examples of this including Jesus forgiving sins (Mark 2:5-7), implying to be David’s Lord (Mark 12:35-37), and displaying His divine authority over disease, physical creation, and the evil spiritual realm (Matt. 4:23-25; 8:16, 24-27).

Above all, however, is the record of Jesus receiving worship. As a Jew surrounded by other Jews, the thought of worshiping any being or thing other than God was not only taboo, but also heresy (Ex. 20:1-6; Isa. 44:6-8). Jesus Himself, when ordered by Satan to fall down in worship, responded by quoting Deuteronomy 6:13: “*Be gone, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve’*” (Matt. 4:10). Yet, Jesus accepted worship

throughout the Gospels and is even said to be worshiped by angels (Matt. 14:33; 28:9, 17; Luke 24:52; John 9:38; Heb. 1:6). Godly men and obedient angels refuse to be worshiped (Acts 10:25-26; Rev. 19:9-10). Therefore, if Jesus was a man, He was a sinner; if He was an angel, He was disobedient; but if He were God, one would expect nothing less.

The Testimony Regarding Jesus’ Divinity in Scripture

There is a robust biblical testimony regarding Jesus’ divinity beyond His own claims and actions. Inspired authors from the Prophets of old to the apostle Paul elaborated on the divinity of the Messiah. Starting in the Old Testament, there are several prophecies that point toward Jesus and affirm the divine nature of the Messiah, primarily His eternality and uncreated nature (an attribute exclusive to God). Micah 5:2 foretold where the Messiah would be born and is cited in Matthew 2:6. This prophecy states, “*But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting*” (cf. Isa. 9:6). Likewise, throughout the Old Testament, there is an association of the Messiah with the Lord Himself (Isa. 40:33; Jer. 23:5-6).

In the New Testament, Christ’s divinity is at the core of the earliest Christian doctrine. Not only was Jesus perceived and declared as divine in the Gospel accounts, but the apostles and other inspired authors maintained and taught the same. As a prime example, the beginning of John states, “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made [...] and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth*” (John 1:1-3, 14).

The doctrine of Jesus being God and directly involved in creating everything continues throughout the epistles

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Television

The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson)

Sunday @ 7:00am on KTAB

In Search of the Lord’s Way (Phil Sanders)

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:00am on KTAB

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org

Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbnv.org)

God’s Plan for Redeeming Man

Hear Learn the saving message of Christ’s sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)

Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

Bible Reading Schedule

video.wvbs.org/access/interactive-bible-reading-plan/

Mar. 24 2 John; 3 John; Jude
Mar. 25 Revelation 1—3 (videos)
Mar. 26 Revelation 4—7 (video)
Mar. 27 Revelation 8—11 (video)
Mar. 28 Revelation 12—15
Mar. 29 Revelation 16—18 (video)
Mar. 30 Revelation 19—20
Mar. 31 Revelation 21—22

“*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*”

(2 Timothy 2:15)



Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **46 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **We had a great week with our Spring Gospel Meeting.** Rick presented interesting, faith-building lessons. The fellowship was great. In addition to our regular meeting times listed below, we had **77** in attendance Monday evening and **101** Tuesday evening. A big **“Thank You”** to everyone for the hard work that made it a success.
- ◆ There will be a **ladies meeting immediately after worship this morning.**

Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ March 24-27—Gospel Meeting @ Colleyville w/ John Hall. *“Inspiration to Change”*
- ◆ April 7-10—Gospel Meeting @ Bangs w/ Terry Jackson.
- ◆ April 7-10—Gospel Meeting @ Hamilton w/ Ross Haffner. *“Spiritual Maturity”*
- ◆ April 13—Ladies’ Day @ Colleyville w/ Tish Clarke and Kayla Hyde. *“Be the Lighthouse”*
- ◆ May 5-9—Focal Point (San Marcos)
- ◆ June 23-27—Junior Camp.
- ◆ July 14-19—Senior Camp.
- ◆ August 16-22—Polishing the Pulpit (Sevierville, TN)

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and Revelation. Seeking to refute a heresy in first century Colossae, Paul explained by inspiration that Jesus is the image of the invisible God, preeminent over creation, the creator of all things, the head of the church, and is even preeminent over death (Col. 1:15-18). Indeed, in Jesus, *“all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell”* and *“the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily”* (Col. 1:11; 2:9).

Similarly, the Hebrews author declares that Jesus is the *“radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power”* (1:3). In Revelation, Jesus presents Himself as the *“Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end”* (Rev. 22:13). In other words, there never has been a time when God the Son did not exist, and there never will be. Jesus is God—a distinct personality from God the Father and the Spirit yet unified with them in divine nature and essence.

Why Does it Matter?

It matters because, biblically speaking, one cannot be a Christian without believing that Jesus is God. The nature of God Himself is at stake here. The very essence of the *“founder and perfecter of our faith”* is in question. Jesus has always been interested in who people believe He is (Matt. 16:13-15), because it matters (John 8:24). Jesus was able to become *“the one mediator between God and man”* only because He is both God and man (1 Tim. 2:5).

In fact, the Son’s humility as demonstrated in His willingness to put on the constraints of human flesh is a central element of Christian teaching. Paul commanded Christians to have the same attitude as Jesus, *“who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. Instead, He emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity”* (Phil. 2:6-7).

We may not fully comprehend all of the intricacies of the incarnation or the triune nature of God. However, we can echo the Scriptures and declare that Jesus is God. He claimed to be God, He demonstrated that He was God, the witness of the Scriptures declares that He is God, and He took on flesh to bridge the gap between us and our Heavenly Father.

Forest Antemesaris (plainsimplefaith.com)

Celebrate

“Rejoice with those who rejoice...” (Romans 12:15)

March Birthdays: Kevin Ross (1), Ken Maninger (4), Wayne Kahlich (9), Ann Walker (10), Susan Ford (17), Allen Griffith (20), Mileen Kahlich (21), Ginger Adams (23), **Jessica Stultz (28)**.

March Anniversaries: James & Cindy Fuller (2), Randy & Laura Huckaby (23), Tom & Carol Wilcox (23).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Mar. 10, 2019	Mar. 17, 2019
Bible Class	32	46
AM Worship	44	55
PM Worship	33	60
Wednesday PM	31	48
Contribution	\$2,028	\$1,993

	This Week: 3/24/19	Next Week: 3/31/19		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p>March 2019 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Allen & Linda Griffith Clean Building: John & Tina Barnum</p> <p>April 2019 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Randy & Laura Huckaby Clean Building: Randy & Laura Huckaby</p>	
Greeters	Tom & Carol Wilcox	Allen & Linda Griffith		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Don Smith		
Communion	John Barnum*, Don Smith Randy Huckaby, Tom Wilcox	Ryan Rudloff*, Rafe Smith Randy Huckaby, Coyce Reed		
Closing Prayer	Joe Dennis	Ken Maninger		
Attendance Cards	Ian Barnum	Aaron Smith		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
Opening Prayer	Rafe Smith	Allen Griffith		
Scripture Reading	Allen Griffith	Tom Wilcox		
Communion	John Barnum	Ryan Rudloff		
Closing Prayer	Mike Bannister	James Fuller		
Wednesday Devotionals:	March 27 Don Smith	April 3 Prayer Night	April 10 Joe Dennis	April 17 Rafe Smith

Search the Scriptures

Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

Studies for the week of March 24, 2019

Sunday Class *1 Corinthians 2:11*
 Wed. Class *Old Testament History—Genesis 49:11*

Christ in the Old Testament (1)

In Jesus' conversation with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, Luke records, "And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself" (Lk. 24:27). All the Scriptures, from Genesis to Malachi, concern the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Jews divided the OT into 3 parts: the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings. In Luke 24:44, Jesus said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."

Christ in the Pentateuch

The greatest of all attestations to the truth of the Christian faith is this – the fulfillment of the OT prophecies concerning Jesus – His life, His ministry and His death.

I. Christ in Genesis.

- A. *The Seed of Woman* (3:15).
- B. *The Institution of Sacrifice* (4:4-7).
- C. *The Seed of Abraham* (12:3; 18:18; 22:18).
- D. *Melchizedek, priest of the most High and King of Salem* (ch. 14).
- E. *Shiloh* (49:10).

II. Christ in Exodus – Deuteronomy.

- A. *In Exodus, He is Our Passover.*
- B. *In Leviticus, He is the Scapegoat.*
- C. *In Numbers, He is the Fiery Serpent.*
- D. *In Deuteronomy, He is The Prophet.*

The Pentateuch presents Christ in picture, type, and prophecy in His three-fold function as a prophet, priest and King. He is God's Prophet, and Priest like Melchizedek and Shiloh, One who would exercise authority as King.

Paul's Picture of the Fullness of Christ (Col. 2:8-15) – Part 2 Made Complete in His Deity (9-10)

- I. **Deity Embodied in Christ (9): "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily".**
 - A. Verses 8-9 add to the statements introduced in 1:15-19 and 2:3.
 - B. The *reason* for following Jesus, instead of human teaching, is based on who Jesus is (If He is Deity, then everything He taught is true and authoritative).
 - C. Completeness in Jesus means that when He spoke and taught, He expressed the mind of God.
- II. **Completeness in Christ (10-11).**
 - A. **"And you are complete in Him".**
 1. *Complete* – Christians have been made complete and continue to be made complete in Jesus.
 2. The phrase *in Him* suggests the spiritual relationship that is necessary for Christians to be made complete.
 3. Jesus provides everything a person needs in order to have spiritual life and to serve God acceptably.
 - B. **"Who is the head of all principality and power".**
 1. Based on the fact that Jesus embodies the completeness of Deity, He has the authority of Deity.
 2. The word "head" suggests control and supremacy.
 3. Christ's being *the head of all principality and power* means that every power in the universe, both in heaven and on earth, is now under His authority.
 4. At present, Jesus is the sole ruler of the universe (Mt. 28:18).
 5. Jesus now reigns over all principality [rule] and power [authority].